

Climate Diplomacy Week 2017

Report on activities in Australia

"Security and Resilience in a damaged-climate world: strategic insights from the EU and Australia"

Supported by especially flown-in European guest speakers, the Delegation of the European Union and Member States' Missions to Australia organised **eight events** in **three cities** (Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra) on 19-22 June 2017. The events gathered over **1000 participants** and staged **57 speakers** including **the Hon Ian Hunter**, South Australia Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Climate Change; **Daniel Mulino MP**, Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Treasury and Finance; **the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Martin Haese**; **the Deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Arron Wood** and Nobel Laureate **Professor Brian Schmidt** AC FAA FRS, Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University.

Five EU Heads of Missions took the floor: **H.E. Sem Fabrizi** (EU), **H.E. Erica Schouten** (NL), **H.E. Tom Nørring** (DK), **H.E. Jean-Luc Bodson** (BE) and **H.E. Pier Francesco Zazo** (IT) as well as the High Commissioners for Bangladesh, **H.E Kazi Imtiaz Hossain**, for Fiji, **H.E. Yogesh Punja** and the Ambassador for the Kingdom of Morocco, **H.E. Karim Medrek**.

A wide array of events in Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra

Three practitioner- to-practitioner seminars: in [Melbourne](#) (19/6), [Adelaide](#) (20/6) and [Canberra](#) (22/6). These were invitation-only and featured our flown-in EU experts in a discussion with their counterparts in Australia. We had participation from **all States and Territories** as officials from States we did not visit were invited to join us in Melbourne.

- The seminar in Melbourne focused on EU domestic and Australian sub-national level climate resilience and adaptation action with representatives from the Australian States of Victoria, Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania;
- The seminar in Adelaide focused on climate security, resilience and adaptation issues specific to South-Australia in a discussion with EU experts. The South Australian government is one of the most active in the field as SA faces strong challenges in particular with regard to water and energy security;
- The seminar in Canberra gathered federal policy makers, experts and academics and focused on EU and Australia security, resilience and adaptation work in the Pacific.

Three film screenings. "Thirty Millions" ([Website](#)) an UNDP film about the effect of sea level rise in Bangladesh was shown in [Melbourne](#) and [Canberra](#). "The Age of Consequences", ([Website](#)) which looks at climate security through the lens of national security and global stability, was shown in [Adelaide](#). All screenings were followed by public panel debates.

An exhibition and a role-play on "Environment, Conflict and Cooperation". H.E. **Sem Fabrizi**, EU Ambassador and **Vice Chief of Defence Vice Admiral Ray Griggs** formally opened a climate security exhibition at the **Australian Defence Force Academy** on 21st June. The touring exhibition was conceived by German think-tank **adelphi** at the initiative of the German Federal Foreign Office. It consists of a series of panels showcasing the dramatic and growing impact of global environmental change with a specific "Pacific" angle. It will stay in Canberra until mid-July and comes with a **roleplay**, where groups of participants impersonate governments, separatists, farmers and NGOs. Thanks to Associate Professor **Stuart Pearson** PhD, a group of postgraduate research students already completed a roleplay exercise on 21st June and experienced the connections between natural resources, environmental change and conflict.

Our experts

Six European speakers were flown-in for the week and were joined by **Bakhodir Burkhanov**, Country Director, **UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji**.

- **(FR) Dr Nicolas Regaud:** Special Adviser to the Director General for International Relations and Strategy, Representative for the Indo-Pacific and Climate issues, French Ministry of Defence;
- **(UK) (Ret) Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti:** UK Foreign Affairs Minister former Envoy for Climate Change and now Director of Strategy at UCL;
- **(BE/FR) Dr Francois Gemenne:** director of the Hugo Observatory at the University of Liège in Belgium, co-director of the Observatory on Climate and Defence of the (French) Ministry of Defence, and executive director of the Politics of the Earth program at Sciences Po (Paris);
- **(DE) Dr Wulf Killmann,** German Development Agency, GIZ Program Director Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region, based in Suva;
- **(FR) Colonel Bruno Ulliach,** Regional Adviser (Asia-Pacific) for Civil Protection, French Embassy in Singapore;
- **(DE) Dr Lennart Reifels,** University of Melbourne and Free University of Berlin. His key research areas include: population mental health, mental health systems and service research, disaster mental health risk reduction, and strategic adaptation in view of the globally increasing impacts of extreme climatic events and disasters

A series of formal bilateral meetings were organised with VIPs from government, politics and the administration during 21st June in Canberra to complement our climate diplomacy efforts.

Media

Interviews. Dr Francois Gemenne gave an interview to AAP and participated in an ABC Radio broadcast, A Foreign Affairs. Article/programme not published/aired yet.

Op-ed. "Forging ahead with global climate action" - Joint statement by **Federica Mogherini**, *High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission*, and **Miguel Arias Cañete**, *Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy* ([link](#))

Press releases:

- European Climate Diplomacy Week in Australia ([link](#))
- Opening of the "Environment, Conflict and Cooperation" exhibition at UNSW ADFA ([link](#))

Social media summary: The events were very well-covered by social media with too many tweets to list in this report. There were great pictures too. Many thanks to our participating Ambassadors, our academics partners and our speakers who all tweeted intensively!

Our Amb. [@FabriziSem](#) on [#ParisAgreement](#) at [#ClimaDiplo](#) seminar / A practitioners workshop w/ [@cosmicpinot](#) and [#climate #security](#) experts <https://twitter.com/EUinAus/status/877683666721394691>

Opened the Environment Conflict & Cooperation exhibition [@UNSWCanberra](#) [#ADFA](#) last night as part of EU Climate Diplomacy week https://twitter.com/VCDF_Australia/status/877633440987754496

The EU/AUS dialogue on climate change, security and resilience continued today at [@RiAus](#) in Adelaide [#ClimaDiplo](#) <http://bit.ly/2tnCb98> <https://twitter.com/ChrisBeattieSES/status/877114601518776320>

2/2 [#HE](#) [@EricaSchoutenNL](#), HE Kazi Imitiaz Hossain BAN & guests open [#ThirtyMillion](#) screening at [#RMIT](#) for [#EU](#) [#ClimaDiplo](#) Week in [#Melbourne](#) https://twitter.com/RMIT_EU_CENTRE/status/877041477754302464

Yesterday saw the first screening on [#ThirtyMillion](#) in Melbourne / [#ClimaDiplo](#) week brings two films to the... <https://twitter.com/EUinAus/status/876966296365215744>

Read about the Dutch finding new ways to adapt to rising sea levels [#ClimaDiplo](#) [#ClimateChange](#) [@HollandWater](#) <https://twitter.com/EricaSchoutenNL/status/876566176851124225>

[#ClimaDiplo](#) in [#MEL](#) w/ Francois [@Gemenne](#) French Defence Observatory Director and [#MakeThePlanetGreatAgain](#) task force on climate security <https://twitter.com/EUinAus/status/876609630885076993>

Thanks to all our speakers for their illuminating perspectives on climate change & what can be done [@UNICCanberra](#) [@dr_nerilie](#) [@BakhodirUNDP](#) https://twitter.com/ANU_Climate/status/877828295181467649



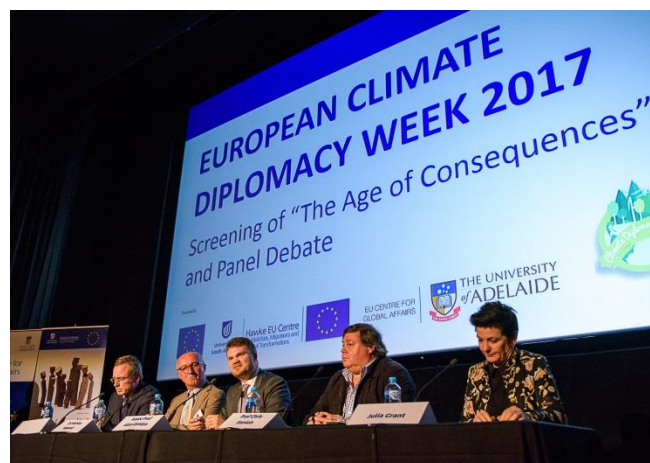
Selection of pictures from the event

Melbourne roundtable seminar and screening of "Thirty Million"



With H.E. Erica Schouten (up, right) and H.E. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain (bottom, right)

Adelaide roundtable seminar and screening of "The Age of Consequences"



With H.E. Tom Nørring, the Hon Ian Hunter, South Australia Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Climate Change and the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Martin Haese as well as other speakers and facilitators.

Canberra opening of the "Environment, Conflict and Cooperation" exhibition and roleplay



H.E. Sem Fabrizi opening the exhibition. Students receiving diplomas for completing the role-play.



Canberra roundtable seminar and screening of "Thirty Million"



Highlights of discussions

The speakers' slides will be put on the web for each specific seminar: [Melbourne](#); [Adelaide](#); [Canberra](#). Here below are the highlights of discussions held.

Climate Security. Greening Defence operations through the reduction of carbon emissions from Defence departments is the "easy" part of the climate security agenda which is already carried out in the EU and in Australia. More complicated are (1) the resilience of defence operations, at stake notably in Australia through sea level rise, given that several bases are located along the coast. Careful planning of investments is required but the right timelines are not always in place - infrastructures will still be standing in 50 to 100 years in a very different environment - . (2) Beyond operations, Australia, like the European Union, is starting to look more closely at the security risks brought about by climate change. What used to be a scarecrow to fear sceptics into mitigation action is turning in a pressing concern of its own. Participants agreed that current policy models were not apt to deal with problems of this breadth and with such timelines. Some

were of the opinion that the age of "politics of the earth" is coming. Fertile land will become a scarcer commodity in the future and land-grabbing will become a geopolitical problem in the same way as water already is. Large parts of the earth could become inhabitable in the medium term unless mitigation efforts redouble. Migratory pressures are however already very difficult to deal with politically in the EU as in Australia. There are however limited processes in place to address the overall climate security/climate action issue from the institutional and decision-making point of view in a whole of government approach. To allow for an informed regional discussion, France is conducting a specific study on climate risks in the Pacific and would like to host an Asia Pacific Defence Ministers Summit on the issue on 2017/2018, in the region.

Emergency preparedness and management. The relevance of the climate story needs to be increased for Governments who are, both in Australia and in the EU, de facto responsible for the prevention and the management of civil emergencies and are held responsible in the public eye (fall-out from the Grenfell disaster or the Portuguese fires for example). Principles of the EU Emergency Response Mechanism and of EU DRR and adaptation policy were presented. Participants pointed out that governments cannot handover responsibility for disasters. In Europe the first law suits for failure to take action on climate change are being fought. This is now a moral and political imperative if not a constitutional one. Governments have to accept the inevitability of disasters. According to some inspiring comments, government action must be one that limits human suffering and be based on ethical propositions. A new narrative, set of indicators and methodology needs to be set up. Australia for example is working on its first National Profile of Vulnerability. At State and City level, emergency management and resilience/adaptation officials throughout Australia are laying out strategies to address vulnerabilities of the Australian population on the basis of a conversation with communities about current stressors, scenarios for evolving pressures and work to increase empowerment and resilience to the impact of climate change be they slow onset or in the form of disasters. This is an area of strong policy innovation and high community awareness both in the EU and in Australia.

Resilience and adaptation in the Pacific. Generally speaking, domestically or in the Pacific, there are overinvestments in disaster relief compared to prevention. In the Pacific, Australia and the European Union are both very active in emergency management but also in rebuilding better, climate resilience and adaptation, although some in the NGO sector underlined a lack of transparency in terms of programmes and funding (no use of Rio markers by Australia for example). NGO representatives said they could raise more private funding should there be more visibility and more granularity in programmes. UNDP pointed out that countries of the Pacific adopted a ground-breaking integrated climate/disaster management/development plan "Framework for Resilience Development in the Pacific", a first in the world which could be a game changer and a template for other vulnerable regions of the world.

With special thanks to.....The Delegation of the European Union in Australia relied on precious help and support from many people from all walks of life across Australia. Let us mention here in particular: Dr Marian Schoen from Melbourne University; Prof John Wiseman the Deputy Director of the Melbourne Sustainability Institute who moderated in Melbourne; Dr Bruce Wilson from the RMIT EU Center and his team; Prof Paul Arbon, Director of the Torrens Resilience Institute at Flinders University who moderated in Adelaide; Prof Anthony Elliott from the EU Hawke Center at University of South Australia and his team and the Adelaide Uni EU Center's team; Prof Mark Howden, Director of the Climate Change Institute at the Australian National University and Clare de Castella who organised both events in Canberra and Paul Barnes, Director, Australian Strategic Policy Institute who moderated part of the seminar in Canberra. And also, the French, German and British Missions in Canberra for their support in preparing meetings; the Australian Department of Defence with special thanks to Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, Cheryl Durrant, Director Preparedness, Force Design Division and Colonel Ian Cumming, the Australian Defence Climate & Security Advocate. Another key "Defence" adviser has been Retired Admiral Chris Barrie, a climate action advocate who spoke at close to all events. Thanks to Retired Air Commodore, Tony Forestier who moderated part of the seminar in Canberra. Mark Crossweller, Director, Emergency Management Australia. The Australian Defence Force Academy: Trish McCauley, Shirley Scott and Stuart Pearson.